

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from photostat of Original]

[Before 1865]

[Bishop Grant]

I have only time to add before the post, that His Eminence came to the children's little Bazaar and gave us all his blessing The Bazaar realised about £100, and they are in hopes of building their little Chapel this summer if possible.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Feb 13th /65

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J.M.J.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I have to inform your Lordship, that one of our lay Sisters, Margaret Crane, who came from Preston last Autumn, where she passed the early years of her religious life in an edifying manner, has by her insubordinate conduct obliged me to dismiss her from amongst us. She re-returned [sic] to her Sister this morning who had previously agreed to receive her.

Margaret Crane made her (conditional) vows in 1856. She has had every advantage in settling her conscience on this matter with the Jesuit Fathers in Preston & with the Rev^d M^r Searle here. She is the twin Sister to the one who gave F^r Borge so much trouble a few years ago & who is now in Preston, though not in the most sane state of mind even now.

I want very soon to write to your Lordship regarding Mayfield & a resident Priest there – Has your Lordship foreseen our want & thought of any one you would like to place there?

I am

My Lord Bishop

yr faithful Ser^{vt}

in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Feb 18th /65

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My dear Lord, [Bishop Grant]

Many thanks for the Lenten dispensations.

As the Duchess of Leeds intends removing her Orphanages to Mayfield perhaps your Lordship may like to make arrangements for the one Chaplain to take charge of the whole, and in this case perhaps we had better talk over the matter first. I only want your Lordship to have our needs in view, knowing how desirable it is that the Noviciate should be apart from the Schools and the Nov: only employed in spiritual duties & manual labour &c with a few Orphans upon whom they can exercise their charity

No – my Lord – I am waiting for the quiet & retirement of Mayfield before taking any further steps upon the Constitutions. It is dangerous work to meddle with while surrounded with innumerable cares & anxieties.

I am, My Lord

yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.Feb 25th .1865

My dear Lord, [Bishop Grant]

I must not allow the twenty fifth to pass without writing to ask for the Clothing of our Postulants who have gone rather over their time. They are,

1.	Miss M Montieth-	Value of services	£30 pr an
2.	Miss M M ^c Court	id	£30 “ “
3.	Miss Herr Wynn	id	£30 “ “

Lay Sisters

- 4 Margaret Green
5. Margaret Ranger-

For Clothing	Age	&	if Convert
Miss M Montieth	22	-	Old Catholic
(with consent of parents)			
Miss M M ^c Court	20		“
(Has the consent of her parents)			
Miss Herr Wynn	22.		Old Catholic
(Our French Governess & her [sic] the consent of her Father)			

Lay Sisters	Age	
Margaret Geen	23	Old Cath:
Margaret Ranger	24.	Convert

There are four Margarets, sent by the Ven. M. Margaret Alacoque –
We are helping to work her carpet for the

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Visitation Monastery at P.

Would it be convenient to your Lordship to clothe them on Lady Day, or would you prefer giving M^r Searle faculties?

There is a little Orphan at Ore who is 15 years of age and she is very near her end – Ellen Collins – Your Lordship will no doubt remember her when at Brighton with the Sisters of Mercy. She wished very much to be a religious, if our d^r Lord had spared her for this world and now that she knows she is dying she would like to be clothed and make her Vows. Would your Lordship approve of this for her? – and if so will you give the faculties for it, with your Lordship's blessing?

I am

My Lord, very faithfully

& gratefully

Yr O^{bt} ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

[Mar 17. '65]

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

You know I always wish to have as far as possible what your Lordship wishes, & to express no wish regarding the Confessor you may choose to appoint, but at the same time I shd be wrong if I did not frankly say that we should much rather not have a Franciscan Father as Confessor at M.

We should never understand each other & for many reasons that I cannot mention in a letter we must beg of Y L to make some other arrangement that may suit better on all sides. I mentioned the subject to the D & H Grace said if he would do for us that she wd not have him for her Orphanages. We may pray to St Patrick & to St Joseph to send you a good secular Priest that may do all that is good for us.

I am

&c &c -

[Cornelia Connelly]

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from photostat of the Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

March 19th [1865]

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J.M.J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

By all means arrange with M^r Reed without delay. I had no thought of giving any trouble; and besides I thought M^r Reed, as a Franciscan Monk, would have ideas quite contrary to our work & to our Spirit. As this is not the case we shall be quite at rest, and very grateful to your Lordship for appointing him for Mayfield.

I quite find that the Duchess prefers having a separate Priest for her Orphanages.

We do not know D^r Reinaud [?] , but we are always content with your Lordship's choice in a suitable secular Priest. We must not expect always to have a zealous and devoted a Priest as M^r Searle – but one who is prudent & learned, peaceful & quiet, ought to be all that is needful to us. Many thanks my Lord, and we shall hope you will arrange to suit M^r Searle whenever your Lordship pleases.

I am

My Lord

Yr faithful & grateful

ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

April 15th [1865?]

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JMJ.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

It has just struck me that perhaps you would prefer placing M^r Reed here, as your Lordship finds so much difficulty in providing a suitable person to take M^r Searles place – and in the meanwhile perhaps the Jesuit Fathers may have some invalid Priest to lend you for Mayfield – How would this suit if S^t Theophila has not already solved the difficulty? M^r Reed seems to dread changes, and perhaps he would be more happy at S^t Leonards with direct communication with London.

Then later, when the Boys Orphanage is built at Mayfield, very likely M^r Searle might like to have the Convent, or at least the solitude would not be so great for another Priest – The railway also is being forwarded & this will make a direct communication with London & Brighton. I do not know of any invalid Priest but simply make the suggestion.

Easter joy is very near, and we all wish your Lordship a very happy Feast with renewed health.

Begging your blessing

I remain

My dear Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

May 6th [1865]

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J M J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I was too late for the post last evening, and now I hope your Lordship may have seen M^r Reed, and have arranged as you think best after having known his wishes. He wrote to me to say that he preferred going to Mayfield It would certainly be very desirable to have a Priest here who speaks either French & Italian, or French & German. We have children & governesses who are only gradually beginning to understand English & who Confess in French without feeling that they are understood so that we should be grateful if the one you send here may do as well for the French & Germans as for English penitents.

I fear there is no chance of the windows being done for the opening of our Mayfield Chapel this year. M^r Pugin has not yet sent the designs for them - & I suppose they will be from 6 to 8 months in progress: M^r Wilson also is rather tardy in finishing up, but every thing seems to be well done and M^r Pugin is quite satisfied.

Will your Lordship kindly arrange the day for our Prizes as near the 31st of July as convenient?

I am, My Lord

Yr very faithful & grateful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

May 9th [1865]

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J M J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I trust you are not thinking of sending M^r Reed here at the expense of depriving the Convent at Mayfield of Holy Mass. We have been already too long there with six Orphans and the family of the Bailiff getting Mass or not on Sundays just as we could and doing without it in the week - I went over on Saturday hoping to find M^r Reed there by the end of the week, but alas we had to get back as soon as we could, not to miss Sundays Mass.

The opening of the Chapel will make no difference regarding the necessity to have the Priest there as soon as possible – Pray send us some one before Saturday evening, my Lord, if even the arrangement be only for a time.

We are all rejoiced to hear of D^r Doyle's recovery – The Nuns' prayers have got him through! And the Old women and children who pray & bless him at every corner.

Our good Sister Joseph has rec^d the last blessing but she may linger on some weeks perhaps.

Begging your blessing

I am my d^r Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

C. C.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

May 14th [1865]

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J. M.J.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I counted for certain upon seeing M^r Reed at Mayfield according to his promise on Friday, or Saturday, and did not write to him because he said he would come by Tunbridge Wells, so I presume it must have been your Lordship's letter he was waiting for – Thanks a thousand times for your kind letters & for your Lordship's interest and care for us.

There is a Rev^d Edmund Delerne, [?] brother of the Rev^d A. Delerne [?] who is at Spetchley Park, Worcester, who would like to be in your Lordship's Diocese, I am told – “ He was a Redemptorist, but his health failing he retired with very high testimonials from the Superior he was under “ Would he suit your Lordship for S^t Leonards? French Priests may not perhaps quite suit in general, but as it is very necessary to have one who speaks french with ease, perhaps you would not object to the trial of this one.

I have never seen M^r Delerne [?] but we hear that he is a very holy man.

I think my Lord that the Duchess is as anxious as M^r Searle is himself to have another Priest here – and it is painful to us under the circumstances that he should not be relieved without delay.

Begging your Lordships blessing

Ever faithfully yr serv^t in JC,

C.C.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

May 22nd [1865]

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J M J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

If you would like M^r Richardson to go to Mayfield & M^r Reed to come here I think matters would arrange themselves more smoothly, and M^r Reed is quite ready for either place or rather for that which is most satisfactory for us.

I am to go to Mayfield tomorrow morning – M^r Reed is going there today – Will you kindly send your Lordship's answer there, Mayfield, Hurst Green, that M^r Reed may know in time? If I had not more faith in your Lordships choice than in our own I should say I am sorry not to have M^r Denis instead of M^r Richardson. The sooner we are settled the better, as doubt & uncertainty have an irritating effect on most persons.

I am my d^r Lord

Your faithful ser^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Aug 1st 1865

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J.M J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I send by this mornings post the ceremonial taken from the Pontificali for your Lordship's correction.

I am very sorry my Lord that you have any unnecessary anxiety about the vows, and the more so as the Holy See has approved the same for several other Orders under the same Constitutions as ours –

You know , My Lord, we always wish to obey & to please you, & to carry out your wishes, but we ought to say frankly that we should not wish to bind ourselves for life under any Constitutions that would not retain the power in the body of the Society to dismiss unfit members. It is quite understood that no one may dismiss herself. And equally that no one could be dismissed by the Society without very grave reasons - If your Lordship would like to have a note to this effect printed on our Rule book I will have it done immediately.

Yes, My Lord, life is short and I am drawing near the end of my 56th year, but our Lord's work needs no one, and may go on much better without me than with me, and I must take care not to spoil what He has done. I hope before very long to have a little more rest & quiet at Mayfield & then see our way more clearly.

Begging your blessing I remain

Yr Lordship's faithful Serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

[Bishop Grant's answer to C.C.'s letter of Aug 1st 1865, written on the letter:]

I hope you will find the changes very simple. It would be well to add the note, and to say for very grave reasons approved by the Bishop of the Diocese where the Sister is ~~dismissed~~ [sic] released from the Institute. T.G.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Nov 6th /65

JMJ.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

At M^r Richardson's request I went this morning to look at the state of the Presbytery and the furniture in it. We find a great deal to be done to make it comfortable and safe (from Burglars). - The carpets also are very dirty & worn &c &c –

It has struck us at various times that your Lordship would like to make use of the two empty bedrooms as a sort of sanitorium for aged & invalid Priests. I need not say My Lord that it would be a pleasure to us that you should use them thus whenever you are so disposed. The thought of their being of any service to your Lordship will give us fresh courage in repairing the house & in renewing it.

We are sorry that Canon O'Toole should have found the house unprepared to give him a comfortable welcome.

I quite understand that the £30 annuity to the Priest of the Mission will date from the time of his leaving the Presbytery.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I remain

My d^r Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Nov 27th /65

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J.M.J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Two of our Novices are preparing for admission to Vows & two of the
Postulants for Clothing – Their names are –

Vows

Lizzie M^c Vicar

S^r S^t Michael

Clothed Oct 29th 1862.

Margaret Morley

S^r S^t Dunstan,

Clothed Nov 18. /63

For Clothing, Fanny M^c Cabe,

(formerly taken away by her Mother the year your Lordship

refused clothing) Age above 30 – Pension £60 pr.an.:

Charlotte Charlton

Age above 30 Value of class services £30

Would it be quite convenient to your Lordship to have the Ceremony on the
28th or 29th of next month?

I hope your Lordship is quite well & not suffering from the very rough weather
– D^r O'Toole is looking quite well again and we are very sorry he does not stop
longer

I am, my d^r Lord

Yr faithful & ob^t serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME

[copied from Letter Book 11
Letter 69 – p.73]

To Dr Grant – from Our Mother

Decr. 12th 1865.

Post going out.

My dr Lord [Bishop Grant]

Many thanks for yr gt kindness in giving such a donation to M. Altar, tho' knowing how many claims Y.L. must have if you allow me I will give the cheque to Mr Foy from Y.L. & tell the D: I have requested this. No doubt we shall soon collect enough for the Altar & in the meanwhile we can very well use the temporary one put up for the. ~~1st of May~~ [sic] first Mass.

The sum to be paid annually by us will not will not be due for the first six months till the 1st of May - & it will always suit us better to pay it every six months.

11ndly We had better if Y.L. pleases keep to the day named for the Clothing unless another would suit Y.L.

Begging Y.L. blessing

I remain my dear Lord

Yours very faithfully in J.C.

C.C.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Dec 13th [1865]

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We all thank your Lordship very gratefully for so magnificent a donation towards the Mayfield Altar, and I have just written to the Duchess to tell her of it.

For the sake of regularity I will send M^r Foy a cheque for £15 in advance – I gave him £5 on the carpets &c which he renewed and there are a number of Catholic visitors here just now, Lady Caroline & Col: Towneley, and M^r Harper & the two Hibberts, M^r Baker & his family, so he need not be anxious – and he has had a number of gifts for the Church finishings –

2. There are two Novices for proffession [sic] and two for Clothing, but I hope your Lordship will choose any day that will suit your own convenience perfectly as it will make no difference provided we know in time when to prepare, and that the Novices are not kept too long in retreat. The Duchess does not expect to return before Xmas.

I remain

My dr Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Jan 19th 1866.

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J.M.J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Many thanks for sending me M^r Richardsons letter which I should have returned immediately had I been able – I am very happy now to explain the facts as they really stand. On Monday morning 15th Jan: M^r Richardson came to me to say that your Lordship wished him to tell me that if it was ~~not~~ [sic] against our Rule to pay the Salary in advance you w^{ld} advance the payment for us! I replied that it was in no manner contrary to Rule but contrary to Custom. M^r Richardson then complained of the salary being too low &c. It is £100 pr: an: while in London we give £70 – pr an - In Bp^l £60 pr:an: To save your Lordship any annoyance I immediately gave M^r Richardson £25 in advance. He also stated that he intended taking a lodger – He already knew the proposal was extremely disagreeable to us – I said I hoped he would consult your Lordship before doing so. I said also, I presumed, as with ourselves, any money rec^d for rent of Lodging could only be applied to the interests of the Institute. He said there was to be no more question of rights. I answered that I should not touch upon that point as it concerned the Trustees & not me.

I also told M^r Richardson that when we were refurnishing the house I had written to your Lordship hoping you would use the empty rooms for the invalided Priests of the Diocese.

I thought that common charity would rather rejoice in your Lordships accepting the proposal - but M^r Richardson was greatly offended by the suggestion – He said he would not suffer such an intrusion, & that he would leave the house if you did so. Upon which I replied that he had his own rooms and that others need not in any way interfere with him – that he did not require more than two rooms. This is the sum of the “Contest” he asserts as having taken place – and this because it would interfere with the lodger advertised for perhaps –

M^r Richardson is extremely annoyed that D^r O’Toole and M^r Reed make themselves so amiable & pleasant with the children & Sisters by their frank & intelligent way and it is not difficult for us to trace the cause of the displeasure. On Monday Morning M^r Richardson complained of having a letter from D^r O’Toole saying I had invited him to come to the childrens plays – Dr O’Toole had promised to come, in M^r Richardson’s presence, when he was here for his health some time ago and as for M^r Reed M^r Richardson had himself invited him to make himself at home at the Presbytery whenever he chose to come to S^t Leonards, and I had written to ask him to come over with the Sisters for the occasion.

M^r Richardson complained that though we sent ample supply for the table there were other expenses and that his servant had too much to do – Therefore I sent S^r Berchmans and another Sister with the wife of the Lodge Keeper to take down coals, candles, matches &c and to prepare the rooms, to make up the fires (with our coals of course) I send you the bill of fare for &c &c each day. When S^r Berchmans went down she found the bedroom we had fitted up for your Lordship undone – The new Carpet taken up & put into the front room for “ the Lodger”. I sent no message whatever either to M^r Richardson or to the housekeeper.

(Now your Lordship should know that S^r Berchmans and another Sister had worked steadily to get up the House in perfect order and we have also employed an Old Man, the carpenter, and the ironmonger to do all that was required for M^r Richardsons comfort and safety.) I had told S^r Berchmans that I wished the things in your Lordship's bedroom to remain as we had arranged them for your Lordship's use, and not to be carried out from one room to another to be spoilt & broken – (Even the third armchair has been carried out) but nothing was said to her of the other rooms. I send for your Lordship's satisfaction her statement of what passed.

In speaking with M^r Richardson on Monday Morning (he states incorrectly “ any visitors”). I used the word Priests and never either thought or alluded to any visitors. This is the first time we have had the right of sending a Priest to the Presbytery questioned and refused. On Monday, after noon, M^r Richardson sent me a message saying I might accommodate one of the Priests in the Convent if I liked!

My Lord, I was sure before M^r Richardson came to us that we should not go on well, and if your Lordship will remember I expressed this opinion to you – I am now more than ever persuaded that there will be no peace or comfort while he remains here, and I am satisfied that the interests of our Institute require one (~~of at least common sense~~) [sic] who is willing and able to work with us & for us for the general good. I say this My Lord not in the expectation that you will be influenced by our wishes or convictions but simply to relieve my own conscience – we shall all pray earnestly that your Lordship may be inspired to send us one who will be cheerful & happy with us helping us to value our religious life, and to

Rejoice in much labour & many tribulations, and that M^r Richardson may be more happy and contented in some place where he may receive (as in Canterbury, he says he received) £300 pr: an: In the meantime we shall be very careful not to annoy or wound him in any way. He has been entertained at the childrens plays each night, & last night with M^r Foy and M^r Duke, but we must not expect any more gracious return for the many kindnesses shewn to him than such as is expressed in his letter enclosed.

I am my Lord yr faithful Servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

S^t Joseph

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

March 19th [1866]

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Five of our Postulants will be ready for Clothing by the 19th of April when I hear your Lordship intends coming to S^t Leonards for Confirmation &c.

Their names are,	Value of Services
Miss Jane M ^c Namara	£30
“ Agnes O’Connor	“
“ Mary Gilston	“

Lay Sisters - Elizabeth Davis

“ “ Sarah Pope.

M^r Richardson wishes me to ask your Lordship whether he may send the Lunette of our Remonstrance to be repaired – It has been out of order for ab^t a year, & ab^t two months since we have been able to use.

I hope your Lordship has been quite well during this trying weather. I am happy to say that our dear Novice at Mayfield is recovering rapidly though we all expected she was going to Heaven before us (if we ever get there! -) It is very long waiting in this valley of tears.

Pray send us an Easter blessing and one for the Duchess too – She has been ill for the last few days with cold & sore throat but is now better.

I am my d^r Lord

Yr faithful servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

April 2nd [1866]

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We all unite in wishing your Lordship a happy & joyful Easter, & we also thank your Lordship for the precious blessing to us, & to the Duchess, with all our hearts.

I hope my Lord that you are quite well and able to enjoy an Easter rest – We shall be very glad to get it, as we have been working hard to get up a Bazaar here to pay our debt upon Mayfield – We have just had the Puseyite Parson at the Bazaar and he was much struck by the modest dress and manner of our dear children, “ so different from ordinary young ladies “, and then he learned how to say the Rosary and bought some of the objects of Piety &c. May our dear Mother convert him ! –

I have just had a letter from M^r Stoner, & he tells me that we shall have no difficulty in raising £2000 to finish the Conventual Church if your Lordship has no objection I will write to M^r Goldie, and ask him to give us a plan for the alteration of the present walls, upon wh we may have tenders put forth for the contract.

I remain My dear Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

April 5th [1866]

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Our Bazaar went off admirably without any cause for anxiety – and we cleared ab^t £100 for Mayfield which is a great help just now. If you discard the name of “Bazaar” there is nothing else left to meet with disapprobation as it is conducted here, and your Lordship might have been present and shared in the innocent amusement of the children from the time it opened till it closed without finding anything to blame, or to disedify.

It shall be without “a Successor” as your Lsp desires – and we must find another mode of disposing of our Needlework, and other little works of art, as it is the only way we can meet the expenses of our Orphans & poor girls.

I really do not know how the sum is to be borrowed for the Church but there will be no difficulty in the matter, as it can be legally secured by a Mortgage & gradual payment. Poor M^r Stoner is in great trouble & unable to attend to business just now having lost his brother quite suddenly and his Sister is in a most afflicted state from the suddenness of the death.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I remain very faithfully

Yr Ob^t Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

Blackpool

May 29th /66

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JMJ

My dear Lord & Father in X^t [Bishop Grant]

I am greatly obliged by your kind letter of the 25th and shall make it my duty not only to inform the Sacristans & Gate-Keeper of the Decree of Propaganda and the directions from your Lordship, but I will also have the notice printed & put up at the entrance in order to save unpleasant feelings & reproaches.

Will your Lordship kindly inform me whether persons visiting the B Sacrament when at the Convent during the time of Confessions ought to be refused ? (Turned out) Also whether Priests are included in the word “ externs” – and whether Priests are still allowed to say Mass in the Chapel while the family he may be with is to be excluded.

I fear being troublesome in asking these questions but as we are told there is danger of Mortal sin (!) in any inexactness I am forced to know exactly in all cases how we stand.

I remain

My d^r Lord & Father

Yr faithful Ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

Blackpool

May 29th /66

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Regarding M^r Richardson's salary I must really express my astonishment that he should make a second application. We not only give him a [sic] £100 pr:an: but we pay his Taxes and the Duchess gives him £10 pr:an: which I happen to know she intends giving our Chaplain during her residence at S^t Leonards. – We cannot do more. The repairs & refurnishing have cost, besides , £100 at least.

Will you my d^r Lord & Father give us another Priest in whom we can have confidence? – M^r Richardson is not our friend (and he has proved this by many remarks that have reached the Community) and to the best of my belief & knowledge there is not a Sister in the Community who would not rejoice at the change The children really dislike him – Pray make a change my Lord for their sakes as well as for the Community.

I remain my d^r Lord

Your faithful ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

Blackpool

June 6th /66

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JMJ

My dear Lord & Father in X^t [Bishop Grant]

Many thanks for your kind letter & promise, and also for the kind advice to Ellen Carter. We have not heard from her lately, but she mentioned when she last wrote what she had asked your Lordship to do for her. We shall be glad to receive her.

I promised our Postulants before leaving home that I would write & ask your Lordship for their clothing to take place on the Visitation July 2nd Their names are

pension & value of services

Miss Catherine Segrave	£30
------------------------	-----

Miss M.J. Duckett	-	"
-------------------	---	---

Miss Mary Cooper	-	"
------------------	---	---

They have been over their time and I ought to have asked for their clothing earlier, but there was such a pressure at the opening that I could not satisfy myself – or them. May it be on the 2nd of July ?

I remain

My dear Lord & Father

yr faithful servant

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

Volume X1V

pg 030

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from photostat]

The Convent

44 Upper Harley St

June 17th [1866]

(on Tuesday Ev^g Mayfield)

+

JMJ

My dear Lord & F^r in X^t [Bishop Grant]

Your kind letter reached us in Preston and I have been unable to answer it until now.

I must first thank your Lordship for the kind arrangement for S^t Leonards.

2.nd Regarding the Clothing &c your Lordship cannot be more anxious than we are ourselves to see the Constitutions approved by the Holy See for the Order of the Holy Child – (as it has for others).

I have so frequently shewn your Lordship how the Sisters are supported & provided for by the Schools &c that it is useless to repeat the same. With regard to the property, which is now I presume the chief point, those who have any make their Wills and retain a legal control over it during their life and by Will secure it to other members of the Society – (not subject to the Charity Commissioners.) They are quite secured legally if they should be so unhappy as to leave religion and wish to claim back what they had given.

My name never enters as possessor of any thing, and it is taken at the Bank simply as Treasurer of the Convent in conjunction with others.

The names I sent your Lordship for the clothing are, ~~three~~ [sic] two simply on the School value, but Miss Catherine Segrave has a pension of £20 pr:an:

and a small dower at her Mothers death. They are anxious to be clothed on “ the Visitation “ July 2nd and wish to go into retreat as soon as it is quite settled & that they have informed their friends & parents of the appointed time.

Begging your Lordships blessing

I remain yr ob^t servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

Volume X1V

pg 032

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

June 24th [1866]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Your kind permission for Kitty Segrave has our best thanks, but I must beg you to add the other two for whom we shall not fail to provide in infirmity or old age. We are making a fund for the aged and infirm during the last four or five years and your Lordship may trust to our care in this respect.

The Rev M^r Donnelly came last evening and we gave him a hearty welcome to-day. I hope he may be happy with us & that all may go on well. This evening he is going to take tea with the children F^r Fortunatus edifies us all and the children are quite delighted with the novelty of seeing a Franciscan.

Begging your Lordships blessing,

I remain, my Lord,

yr faithful servant

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Miss Catherine Segrave

“ Mary Jane Duckett

“ Mary Cooper

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pg 033

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

June 28th [1866]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I fear the letter sent regarding the Postulants has not reached your Lordship, as I sent to know if M^r Donnelly had heard from you regarding the Clothing and he had not.

They are now in retreat & most anxious for an answer, two not yet having informed their parents as your Lordship only accepted one.

Will you kindly write to M^r Donnelly and admit the three to Clothing on the Visitation of our B lady?

I remain

My Lord & Father in X^t

Yr faithful Serv^t

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

July 4th [1866]

+

J M J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Pray accept our best thanks for your kind letter & for the acceptance of the two other Postulants who were clothed on Monday with Kitty Segrave.

Will your Lordship have the kindness to let me know what you wish regarding the Day School building opposite, which is quite going to ruin. All the glass has for some time been beaten out, and we wish to add a small class room at the side during the holidays & to open the mixed poor School there instead of at the Convent gate. It is very discreditable to see it in its present state of ruin. Col: Towneley agreed to this from the time the Church matter was settled, & even before – Indeed it would have been a wise move at the time M^r Foy wished us to take the boys, but a mixed school was not suggested. If you will kindly answer whether your Lordship approves we can proceed without delay as the expense will be but small.

I remain

My d^{ly} Lord

Your faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Volume X1V

pg 035

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

July 25th [1866]

+

JMJ.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I was quite sure something of this sort would happen. So much for being too exalted in their childish expectations. Still, I hope you will listen to the children's prayers for their sakes, I mean for their good.

I do not understand what I am to do with the enclosed – had it not better go towards increasing a fund for the rebuilding of the Church?

I hope M^r Foy has fully explained, as he said he would, the proposal

I am My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

[Sep 12. 1866]

+

J M J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

F^r Hathaway left us by the 9 OC^l train this morning. He examined the Novices last evening and will no doubt send your Lordship his report on them. I send by tonights post a letter directed to him in your Lordships handwriting, it came by the 3 OC^l post.

I have written to M^r Donnelly to ask him to be here tomorrow and to say that I had asked your Lordship to come down for the ~~Clothing~~ [sic] Profession on the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, so I hope the Sisters may not be disappointed, please my Lord –

We had a delightful retreat but the excellent father seemed very suffering.

Would it be too much to ask your Lordship to name a yearly extraordinary for us who would take Mayfield S^t Leonards & Ore three times in the year? And with the yearly retreat this would secure us four chances of a change of Confessors as a regular visit, whether needed or not. We should like F^r Hathaway or F^r Maher if your Lordship pleases.

Begging a blessing

I remain your Lordships

faithful Servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Sep 12th

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Sep 15th /66

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

The four Sisters made their vows this morning and we thank your Lordship for sending leave and also for the fifth - Will you kindly add for the 15th of October two more

S^r S^t Laurence, M.A.Curley

S^r Walburga Isabella Lyns,

Both clothed on the 14th Sep 1864.

The Sisters from Mayfield made their retreat here and are not in any need. I though it would save some degree of care & responsibility if the Extraordinary were named for the year as the visit would thus be a regular matter as it is with our Sisters in the North. But I shall try not to omit reminding your Lordship at the stated times. Thank you my Lord – We must try afresh to be very grateful for the many blessings bestowed upon us notwithstanding our unworthiness, and humbly begging your Lordship's blessing

I remain my Lord

Yr faithful Servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 038

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Oct 7th [1866]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

There is some mistake, as I asked for the profession exactly a month before the Feast. The date of the enclosed letter will shew your Lordship, and it will be a great pity to give unnecessary pain and discouragement. S^r S^t Laurence (Curley) is one who is to be put off – S^r de Borgia (Jones) & S^r Walburga (Lyns) are those presented for the 15th S^t Theresa's F.

I remain My Lord

yr faithful servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Oct 14th /66

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We purpose sending two of our Sisters and a French Governess to assist our Sisters in Philadelphia. They have written for help in their increasing work, and have sent us the money for the journies [sic] of three. The French Governess is an experienced trustworthy, pious person – age 34 – She has been highly recommended to me for this object by the Superioress of the Convent where she was educated.

We wish to arrange for the party to sail from Liverpool at the end of this week if possible – Will your Lordship bless them and their voyage?

Many thanks for your Lordships kind permission to M^r Donnelly We shall all particularly pray tomorrow for your Lordships intentions to S^t Theresa -

I remain My Lord

Yr faithful Servant

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 040

NEW SHARON ARCHIVES

[Copied from Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Oct. 15.1866

Rev.M.Sup.

All nuns write so much alike that one handwriting is mistaken for another. S.M.Walburga's writing is so like that of another Sister that I feel afraid to say that the enclosed is her own. If these letters are written by themselves, I bless their voyage.

Yours very respectfully

+ Thomas Grant

Returned the writing saying

I certify that this is the writing of the Sister who signed it.

Cornelia Connelly

[The above is in C.C.'s own hand.]

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Dec 11th [1866]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I ought to have written on the 6th to catch the Epiphany (but could not) to ask
for the Profession and Clothing of the following Sisters –

S^r S^t John, Catherine Williams

S^r M. Stanislas, Elizabeth Birmingham

They were clothed on the 14 Sep^t 1864 and have been approved in Chapter

Postulants

value of teaching

Services

Ellen Carter)

£30. pr:an:

Jessie Gray)

Lay Sisters

M. Davidson

M. A Gallop –

Grace Critchley

Elizabeth Broadbent

M A. Newland.

In all seven –

All have the consent of their parents who are living – and have been approved in Chapter.

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pg 042

Thanks my Lord for the favour of Benediction so frequently, and thanks for giving us the blessing of such an excellent Priest as M^r Donnelly – he is just the one to suit us in every way – Though I am almost afraid to say this lest he should be taken away.

Begging a blessing

I remain My d^r Lord

Yr faithful Servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 043

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from photostat of the Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

March 24th 1867

+

J.MJ.

My Lord Bishop, [Grant]

You are aware that it was quite necessary for us to have the addition to our School rooms- in fact that we are not comfortable without them. We have thirty seven children in our highest Schools, and the quarterly profits of the School quite satisfy us that we can put by £100 a year towards the repayment to S^r Theophila of the £700 needed for the present enlargement.

The Children generally are of the highest Catholic families & the repayment of the amount is quite safe.

Mr Hubbards' nieces are quite sensible of his kindness towards them & they have every confidence in his affection.

I am

My Lord Bishop

Yr faithful Serv^t

in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 044

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t L. on Sea.

April 26th [1867]

+

JMJ.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Our Easter salutations are rather tardy, but not the less sincere & grateful, and we all unite in wishing your Lordship every good & holy felicitations.

Many thanks for the beautiful Pastoral which we read in the Community this morning! We could not wait till Sunday wishing to have the first Easter news!

Our " Sale of Needlework " brought us in £105, but we have yet to subtract the materials used. I have told the Sisters it is to be our last (unless we have a future permission from your Lordship) – I am quite sure that no harm has come of it but a great deal of good. Our excellent Priest was a great help to us as he kindly came both days & the children enjoyed their innocent fun in buying, selling & raffling, I hope without cheating!

I must not forget to mention that we were all so much annoyed by the extreme ugliness of M^r Goldie's drawing that we concluded to pay him his fees & to employ Pugin.

I hope our Sisters may find your Lordship at home to-morrow when they take the plans (by M^r Pugin) for your inspection – and that they may meet with yr Lordships approbation

I am ever your Lordships faithful

Servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

[19 May 1867]

+

J.M.J.

My dear Lord, [Bishop Grant]

Mother M.Xavier the Superioress in Philadelphia writes to request me to ask leave for the Bishop of Philadel: D^r Wood, D^r O'Hara, V.G. The Rev F^r Carter, & F^r Shanahan to say Mass in the Diocese of Southwark on their way and on their return from Rome. The Bishop requested her to write that they might find the permission waiting for them & not lose the first day.

D^r Wood leaves New York on the 29th of May and I presume will reach here ab^t ten days later.

They want to go to Mayfield and to the Orphanages as well as S^t Leonards.

Will your Lordship kindly grant this & send the letter to my care?

I remain my Lord

Yr very grateful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

May 19th 1867

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pg 046

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from photostat]

The Convent

S^t L. on Sea.

May 24th [1867]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

A thousand grateful thanks for your kind care.

The Walls shall be battened lathed & plastered immediately I offered to have it done several times, but there was always some obstacle – The Old lady & her daughters who lived in it, I think nineteen years, were very well & sorry to leave it.

It is not the house but the place that has disagreed with M^r Reed.

I remain My Lord

Yr grateful &

humble Ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from a photostat]

[In Bishop Grant's hand : May 28. 1867]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

According to M^r Stonor's advice we have signed the Contract for the Church provisionally until the Trustees have the money in hand, and are ready to take it.

The men are now clearing the Stone & preparing for the builders –

M^r Phillips the Solicitor secured that no payment beyond the sum of £300 should be given before the expiration of two months. The £250 in the Consols & £50 we have in hand. The Builders are having the printed Contract, w^h your Lordship kindly had forwarded to us through M^r Arnold, copied for their own keeping together with the Specifications & as soon as they are returned I will send them to M^r Stonor.

I should not trouble your Lordship with these details at such a busy moment but perhaps M^r Stonor may not have seen your Lordship & then you w^{ld} not know how matters stand.

Begging your Lordships blessing I am ever My Lord

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

May 27th

[July 3. 1867]

+

J M J.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

The enclosed mite is from the Community & the children. It is a humiliation to offer such a very small sum, but I am glad even have this to add to your Lordships offerings. Mess^{rs} Plowden & Cholmeley will change it & I know of no other way to forward it.

I must thank your Lordship very gratefully for sending us F^r Donovan & hope sincerely the climate here may agree with him. He is quite a model of piety & zeal and his stories of Australia & [sic] and the most edifying facts of the Bishops & Missioners there bring back the burning of ones early fervour and hopes of labouring for God in one way or another – There the religious women are real helps to the clergy who need all the help they can get in the way of the poor & ignorant Savages & their conversion & instruction. It is to be hoped that the D. of Motion has nothing to do with longings for such work.

I am ever My Lord yr faithful

Serv^t in JC.

C. C.

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pg 049

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

July 14th

1867

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We rejoice to hear of your Lordship's safe arrival, tho' not without having had something of a panic on hearing of Cholera & Roman fever prevailing in the Et^l City. Thank God all has passed the crown of Martyrdom hoped for by some. Father Carter has " been and gone " and I have to thank your Lordship for your kind letter consenting to my visit to America – We are expecting two of our Sisters here and then we shall be better able to decide upon the time of the proposed journey. He wants two more Sisters " who can ride a streak of lightening " –

Perhaps I shall intrude too much upon your Lo^p time if I ask you all we should like to know but my Lord will you come to our children's prizes which we propose being distributed on the 30th The eve of Katty Bellasis' wedding day? or if your Lordship prefers an earlier date we can change it.

I wrote on the 29th or 30th of June to ask for a clothing & reception of Vows, and also enclosed our mite for your offerings – Did your Lo^p receive my letter?

Every thing has gone on well with us since your departure but the builders are very slow.

Begging a blessing for all

I remain My d^r Lord

Yr faithful Ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [Copied from photostat]

[printed on the paper:]

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

S^T. LEONARDS ON SEA

July 16th 1867.

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

The two lists for Vows & clothing had better not depend on the Roman letter, therefore I send the duplicate today being our Lady's Feast.

I presume we shall not see any of the Jesuit Fathers here before the time of our retreat, but very likely F^r Donovan may come over for confession in a week or so & if you will give him the necessary faculties you[r] Lordship will no doubt be equally satisfied – I hope you have heard from D^r Reed.

For Clothing

1.	Mary Purey	Value of services	
		£50	Expects £200 Dower
2.	Mary Managhan	id	£30 (No Dower)
3.	Catherine Molloy	id	£30 - No Dower

For

Lay Sisters

4. Lucy Willis
5. Mary Burke.

We shall be ready for the 30th or any other previous date, if near the 30th that your Lordship may choose.

Little Cicie Randolph was obliged to leave us today & thus has missed the prizes. M^r Randolph has just returned from Rome immensely impressed & edified.

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pg 051

It will be a great joy to us to see your Lordship again & to listen to all !

I am my Lord

yr faithful Ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

July 18th 1867

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Thanks for the 30th

-----I simply allude to the Sisters being examined for the Vows. M^r Donovan has no faculties for hearing our Confessions, but I thought he might wish to come over for his own Confession & that your Lordship would give faculties for examining the Sisters as you prefer a stranger to the Confessor - & I concluded that M^r Donovan would want to come over for himself, to gain the indulgences.

I have added what your Lordship wishes for the list of Sisters. – I hope, and believe confidently, that my life or death will not have any influence in the way your Lordship imagines on the Sisters who are without dowers. I wish with all my heart I had 500 to take over to America this year – Ah ! my Lord if you only knew the wants of a vast & new Country your heart would warm with zeal for the souls of the poor children in utter ignorance of the true faith – There religious are valued for their works and they need no dower.

I wish you could hear good holy M^r Donovan talk of Australia & of the devoted missionaries there, while in England the Missions can hardly be supported.

Do not fear the need of Dower my Lord, with those who can command none, while the missions are begging for Sisters and we have none to spare.

Begging a blessing I remain My Lord

Yr faithful Sv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Aug. 12. 1867.

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We are on our way to the North, first making a short visit to the Duchess of Leeds, who requested our two American Sisters to come to Hornby with us on their return to America. They have taken their births [sic] in the Steamer sailing on the 17th. Will your Lordship send them a blessing on their voyage? – One Sister only will accompany them and I enclose her certificate as usual.

We start tomorrow for Hornby Castle, and on Friday hope to be in Preston. On our return I shall try to see your Lordship at S^t Georges

I remain My Lord

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Monday.

121 Harley S^t

London. W.

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pg 054

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Wilfrid's S^t

Preston

Aug 28 1867

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Many and grateful thanks for sending us the Holy Father's blessing – Mth
Theresa sent me the copy of Cardinal Barnabo's letter.

Unfortunately there has been a mistake as to the time of our retreat which I had asked for on the fourth of Sep^r F^r Gallway probably did not see that my letter was dated from Blackpool – and it appears that F^r Hathaway had forgotten my request made some time ago – in May – that we should want our retreat the first week in Sep^r It is quite impossible for me to be at S^t Leonards before the third, or fourth, but we can make our retreat in the solitude of Mayfield tho' I am very sorry not to be at S^t L.ds – Everything will no doubt go on as usual as Mth Theresa is there and the loss will only rest with myself and my Assistant (in travelling) The mistake has been supplied by the use of the telegram, which is a great smoother of difficulties on such occasions.

I remain

My d^r Lord

Yr faithful Ser^{vt}

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME [copied from Letter Book 11. Letter 88 – p.97-99]

Convent All Souls

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Sepr 3 1867

+

J.M.J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

In reply to your kind letter of the 28th I must state that in accordance with Y.L's wish I have again taken advice regarding Mr Goldie's account & after a full & fair consideration I am told that Mr Goldie cannot claim more than 2½ per cent on £1500 to which I limited his drawing. It is quite true that I offered 2½ pr ct on the actual cost of the building, intending this sum to cover all expences & to remunerate him generously without reference to my restriction of expenditure – but as Mr Goldie adds other claims we must restrict the interest on £1500

Secondly. Mr Goldie has no claim whatever on me for his visits on account of the Duchess of Leeds. He received from Her Grace £150 for the drawings made for her proposed House, but he did nothing for me. On the contrary I told him I could do nothing regarding the Church. Thirdly. The survey of the Church was made in two visits 1866. I think but Mr Goldie took his measurements from the plan of Mr Wardell which he had in his hand at the time and these have been paid for to Mr Wardell. ~~I-presu~~ [sic] His charge is I presume then £5.5 pr day. Lt it be so – but it is not fair

Fourthly – The claim of £15.15 for a sketch totally worthless in every respect is considered an absurdity.

Fifth. The Tenders were got without my instruction before I had seen the drawings, & if I had ordered them to be made,

he would only be entitled to £7.10. at 2½ per cent. The bill for advertising of course shall be paid but I ought to have had the drawing before he advertised for tenders. I have told Mr Goldie that I am willing to pay a just claim immediately, that is –

Interest 2½ pr ct	£37.10	on 1500
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No 3	10.10	
------	-------	--

No 5	7.10.	
------	-------	--

Advertising	<u>1.13.</u>	
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57. 3 (or)

I am ready to keep to my former offer of £75 to include all expences & this is more than I should be legally obliged to pay. I am sorry your Lordship should be troubled with these matters, and sorry also for Mr Goldie

Begging your Lordship's blessing,

I remain

Your faithful Servant in J C

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat of Original]

[20 Sept. 1867]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Your kind letter has been answered from Ore & Mayfield and now I must add that we shall not be in want of an Extraordinary until the retreat of our dear children, when we shall gladly avail ourselves of the Father who may be sent, if your Lordship will kindly give the faculties to act for this purpose.

On our return from the North I intended to call at S^t Georges but as the retreat had begun my duty seemed to call me here though the retreat was too far advanced for my own benefit – So the prospect of the solitude of Mayfield is still in view though I am not just yet able to leave here as our Schools are only beginning for the year and settling in order,

2^{ndly} The Doctor advises rest and change for me for this winter, but our Sisters are making a Novena and thus I hope a change may not be necessary.

3^{rdly} Two of our Sisters are also advised change of climate for this winter and I think a third ought to rest for ab^t six months or at least have a change. Mayfield has been of great benefit during the holidays – but Pau has been recommended for the winter. I have been repeatedly urged to open a School there and we have been promised several children to begin with should we send the Sisters for the winter. Would your Lordship approve of my making arrangements

to send the Sisters? M^r Capel has written to the Bishop of the Diocese to know his Lordships wishes regarding a School such as ours would eventually be likely to prove.

There would be many advantages in connection with our Convent here and some of our former pupils in France & Spain, and with those likely to be future pupils. A winter's residence there w^{ld} in some measure test the probability of a future establishment and we should thus avoid any unnecessary expense. The town your Lordship no doubt knows is not very large but it contains ab^t 14000 inhabitants and ab^t 4000 visitors during the Season. There is a Convent of Ursulines there, and a Normal School, neither of which we should interfere with if finally we established a School there agreeably to the Bishop's wishes. Will your Lordship kindly let me know whether you have any objection to our Sisters going there for the Winter?

The Duchess wishes us to go for many reasons & is much interested in the prospect of a School & Convent in that neighbourhood – If by the Sisters Novena I am so far cured as to be of any use here, of course I much prefer not going myself but should feel sorry not to send the Sisters with this twofold object.

I remain my d^r Lord begging your blessing & advice

Very faithfully & gratefully

Yr ob^t serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Sep 20th 1867.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Sep 23rd [1867]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I hope we shall not have any trouble, and that M^r Goldie may take legal advice as to his supposed claim. I will do as your Lordship suggests regarding legal advice, and no doubt we shall get at a just decision between the two without coming to open war. I am very thankful that your Lordship declined the discussion as I am disposed to think that M^r Goldie placed his stronghold in your Lordship's aversion to any dispute with Nuns or religious – I shall do ~~just~~ [sic] what is legally just and not give a penny more than I can help as he has refused the £75. !

2^{ndly} Many thanks for your Ldp^s good holy and most kind advice regarding the proposed house at Pau. I had not thought of any thing contrary to Poverty, and indeed it might be an example in future times unless well understood in the purpose being a good work. Do not trouble yourself my dear Lord as to the poverty of our American Sisters – They gave away their blankets and they were in a cold house & this is the sum total of their wants – The money was not wanting and very few religious ever went to America with half the property they possessed. I only say this my Lord to shew how even praise may misrepresent the truth in such matters. The

Sisters did suffer from circumstances but not from being without sufficient means to raise money for their wants. Our Lord himself provides that we must “ feel the effects of poverty “ I shall be very cautious and profit by your kind & paternal suggestions in this matters [sic] as in all others and decide upon nothing “ till we see our way & know our dear Lord’s most holy will.

I remain

My Lord

Yr grateful & faithful servant in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Volume X1V

pg 061

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Oct 7th 1867.

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I think you will be pleased to know that we have finally given up the thought of going to Pau this Winter. And as I promised D^r Wood and F^r Carter (having your Lordships consent) to go to Philadelphia in the Spring we have decided to go now, and make one journey & one expense while the weather is fair. We have consulted together over this matter since last Augst and at last settled to go in the Cunard Steamer of Saturday 12th We heard this morning that we can have berths in the Hecla –

I need not say that everything here shall be settled so satisfactorily that my absence may not be any loss. Mth Theresa with her Assistant will see that every thing is well & diligently cared for &c &c .The Schools are settled for the year and I shall hope to return D.V. next Spring, in time for the ~~finishing~~ [sic] opening of the Church. I have paid £950 on the Contract and shall call upon M^r Stonor for the portion to be returned to the Convent ~~now~~ [sic] due on the loan, which I trust is now being settled.

M^r Phillips is acting with M^r Goldie's Solicitor. He says we are not bound to give more than 2½ pr ct even if I had given orders for the tenders to be made. And that I ought not to have offered £75.

Pray my Lord send us your blessing on our journey & your commands. Two Sisters go with me. The Providence of God will be the same at sea as on the dry land, and His Holy Will in life or in death more sweet than any wish we can form of ourselves. It is a more heavy trial to me to leave here this year than it would have been at any former time but the conviction that I ought to go now must take me through it with God's help.

F^r Hathaway has just come for the Children's retreat. He is going to Jamaica next week.

Again begging your Lordships blessing, I remain

My Lord

Yr faithful serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from Photostat]

For Vows.

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. | S ^r Agatha
(Anastasia Hebbard) | Clothed Sep 14 th 1864 | Value of services £30
Age 25 years. |
| 2. | S ^r S ^t Joseph
(Ann Donegan) | Clothed Feb 2 nd 1865 | Value of Services £30
Age 25 |
| 3. | S ^r M.Aloysia
(Aline Herr Wynn) | Clothed March 25 1865 | Value of services £50
Age 24 yrs |
| 4. | S ^r S ^t Stanislas
(Margaret M ^c Court. | id id id | Value of services £30
Age 23 yrs |
-

Lay Sister

- | | | | |
|----|--|----------------------------------|----------|
| 5. | S ^r Helen
(Ann Partington | Clothed Feb 2 nd 1865 | age 27 - |
|----|--|----------------------------------|----------|

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Jan 2nd 1868.

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We begin our half yearly " recollection days " to day, and if you will kindly send us the Extraordinary from Farm S^t any time between this & Monday we shall be thankful. Will you also extend his faculties to Ore & Mayfield? It will not be possible to get through the three without stopping one night. We should be very glad if F^r Maher or F^r Eyre could come.

The children are having a very merry Season notwithstanding the alarm of the Fenians, who we hear have threatened the Gas Works at Hastings.

With many grateful expressions I remain

My dear Lord

Yr faithful Ser^{vt}

in JC.

C. C.

Volume X1V

pg 065

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Jan 17th 1868

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Thanks for the Cheque rec^d by this mornings post. We shall be quite prepared for the instalments as they fall due after the loan of £2500 is paid out – or if your Lordship prefer it we can pay the next payment when due and leave the remainder on the loan. Thanks for the items in figures as they now stand.

We shall not take the Capital of the Sisters Dowries to pay off the debt, but we are quite secured by the income in rents, and we shall pay off interest and loan in the course of 30 years without anxiety or doubt – unless the Fenians blow up the Town, or that an Earthquake submerges us ! And then we shall have to settle accts in heaven.

It is a sorrow to me that your Lordship should have had any trouble a^{bt} Messrs Hodgson & Osborn, but I suppose there must always be something on this earth to mar every good work or at least to annoy one.

Begging a blessing

I remain My d^r Lord

Yr faithful Sev^{vt}

in JC.

C. C.

P.S. A letter from London calls me to S^t Anns today or tomorrow. If the weather is not too bad we shall take the 12 train today.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES [copied from photostat]

[printed on the paper]

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

Feb 4th 1868.

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I enclose the receipt for the last payment - There will be no necessity to send the am^t until the next payment is required & then one cheque will do. I am writing this letter on a book (in the open air) as your Lordship so kindly recommended – as I find myself falling back in health which the journey had restored – The real secret is fresh air and mental rest. The Church is going on beautifully – The roof is being slated and I trust we shall be ready for the first Mass in May – Will your Lordship come down to say it ? I saw in the W. Register that you had been on a visit to D^r Goss and we rejoiced at the thought of the change for the sake of the rest it must have procured for your Lordship in the midst of so many cares and duties Oh ! what a weary world it is even with many consolations.

With every expression of grateful respect

I remain my d^r Lord

Yr faithful Ser^{vt}

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

Volume X1V

pg 067

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Feb 5th / 68

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Thanks for the Cheque just rec^d. Yes, the loan money will probably be quite exhausted by the next payment, but I have in hand sufficient to pay off the remainder of the Contract.

The weather has been so very lovely here during the last two days that we are all brightened up afresh, and rheumatic pains have hidden themselves.

With thanks from all for your Lordships remembrance & kind blessings

I am ever faithfully

Yr devoted serv^t

In JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 068

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

March 3rd [1868]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Mr Pugin has given the enclosed certificate for £400 due to the builder. As we are only to pay 80 pr ct of the whole am^t and we have already paid £2150 I make out only £250 to be due at present – The whole am^t of Contract being £2965.

We shall have to borrow a portion of the remainder though we had it in hand when I wrote to your Lordship – I have paid M^r Pugin his fees £150

M^r Goldie £ 80

The windows at M^rd (Mayfield) [£] 168. &c besides some other heavy bills but we shall soon make all right when the bulk of the payments come in that are soon due.

Many thanks for the pastoral. We groan over being obliged to see the Duchess refuse poor children that will be sent to the workhouse & Bletchingly will not be half filled because her Grace says she cannot receive more! She has under forty girls and the accommodation there will be for more than one hundred ! Pray do not say that I have said anything ab^t this but as she says she cannot afford to take them I mention the fact merely for your Lordship to know it.

Begging your Lordship's blessing

I remain your faithful Ser^{vt} in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t L.on Sea.

March 8th [1868]

+

J M J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

The Cheque for £252.16.3 is safe – and finishes as your Lordship states the money in your hands.

The Banker here allows me to draw the remainder as I require it for payment and it will be paid back by the money coming in gradually – We do not wish to make any fixed loan but to cut off any unnecessary wants or external demands. Do not be uneasy ab^t us, we shall not be pinched in any thing really necessary for the every day expenses – But we shall not get our Organ quite so soon as we intended, nor our Stalls. They too will come in time.

[Cornelia Connelly]

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t L. on Sea'

March 10th /68

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Mr Hodgson was here to-day and I paid him the am^t due at 80 pr:ct: He was satisfied for the time, but will want more in a fortnight. He tells us he has spent £1800 in wages alone! – Of course the contract is our only guide but I suppose I must not be hard upon him if he needs the money – (?)

The receipt is enclosed. – Your Lordship did not return the printed form, & I concluded you had returned to M^r Pugin for correction – so I was obliged to use as you will see the ordinary form of receipt.

2. The only pressing want of the Community is proper accommodation for the Sisters by building the cells as proposed to be done with the Church. They will cost ab^t £1000 and we ought to make every sacrifice to do them. I will write to M^r Stonor and see what can be done before the scaffolding is removed.

3rd We shall be very glad to have F^r Clare as Extraordinary any time before Easter as F^r Maher cannot come. I shall be glad to know when he can come, as three of us are anxious to begin the exercises, which we missed last midsummer & we have only had our half yearly retreat for the Epiphany. We should like to know the exact time so as to begin three days before his visit.

Many thanks my d^r Lord for your kind care & blessing

Ever your faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

March 17th [1868]

+

J.M.J.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

You know I always wish to have as far as possible what your Lordship wishes, and to express no wish regarding the Confessor you may choose to appoint, but at the same time I should do wrong if I did not frankly say that we should much rather not have a franciscan Father as Confessor at Mayfield. We should never understand each other, and for many reasons that I cannot bring to notice in a letter we must beg of your Lordship to make some other arrangement that may suit better on all sides. I mentioned the subject to the Duchess and her Grace said even if he would do for us that she would not have him for her Orphanages. We shall pray to S^t Patrick & to S^t Joseph to send you a good secular Priest that may do all that is good for us.

I am my d^r Lord

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat of Original]

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

S^t Leonards on Sea.

April 16th 1868

+

JMJ

My dear Lord, [Bishop Grant]

We all send our best greetings to your Lordship for this Holy Season & wish you many & many happy returns on earth & in heaven. Even at this joyful time it is a weary world to some of us, particularly when the east winds bring Rheumatic twinges & cramp (!), from which I trust your Lordship is perfectly free.

The Church is slowly progressing but there is no chance of our being in it before Midsummer. I have not advanced any more payments to the builder as he has had 80 pr: ct: on the whole, but when we do so the receipts shall be sent to you as usual.

There has been a sad mistake in the windows, which were specified & order [ed] in Cathedral glass, but the unfortunate glazier took upon himself to follow his own taste & has put in glass much more expensive, but of the most staring colours – yellow & sky blue ! The religious tinge of the Chancel is quite spoiled by them. M^r Pugin, (as well as ourselves) is much annoyed by the unfortunate mistake.

We heard of your Lordship's visit to Arundel & could not help hoping you might run over to S^t Leonards before returning to London.

Begging an Easter blessing for the Community and the children,

I remain My d^r Lord

Yr faithful Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

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pg 073

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

April 28th /68

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

The following list of [sic] Novices have been accepted by the Community for Vows –

S^r Theresa -

Miss McCabe

Clothed April 18th 1866

Age. 39 – Dower £60 pr: an:

S^r Gonzaga

----- Age 30. Services £30

(Miss M^cNamara)

S^r M Josephine

----- Age 27 -- id £30

Lay Sister

S^r Clare, Margaret Ranger- Age 26.

Clothed March 25th 1865.

Will your Lordship kindly mention a time that will be convenient to receive their Vows during the month of May?

I fear we shall have some trouble with M^r Hodgson the Builder – Mr Pugin writes that he threatens him with a law suit – the loss of our Church being more than he can bear.

We have a child very ill – Louisa Mostyn – her Mother has been here several days – Will your Lordship remember her

in the Holy Sacrifice? – M^r Donnelly has just given her extreme Unction – She has congestion of the left lung.

I am My Lord

Yr faithful servant

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 075

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

121 Harley S^t

May 13th 1868

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We are on our way to the Convent n^r Ware to remain there ab^t a week. We left Mayfield yesterday the Country looking most beautiful in its fresh Spring garb.

Mr Donovan proposed visiting his friends in Dublin while M^r Scrattan remained at Mayfield. If he concludes to do so your Lordship will hear from him of course.

We left the Duchess at Mayfield where she intends to remain for a few days – The workmen are still at Bletchingly and the girls will not be removed till they are gone, w^h will probably be ab^t the first or second week in June. Will your Lordship send leave for the removal & bless the work? I presume the Duchess will have the opening at a time that may suit your Lordship & when the place is in order. It is hardly accessible in muddy weather, having no road up to either of the buildings.

Thank you very much my Lord for your late visit to us & for all your great kindness to us while we are looking forward to the 26th with every joyful hope.

I remain

My d^r Lord

your faithful Ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME [copied from Letter Book 11. Letter 94 –p. 105]

Copy of a letter written by our Mother to the Bishop dated The Culvers -

May 19th 1868.

My dear Lord - [Bishop Grant]

I wrote from Harley St to say we were going to the ~~Culvers~~, [sic] Convent here ~~there~~ [sic] to remain about a week, but the letter seems to have miscarried, as your Lordship wrote to St Leonards We shall be prepared for the 28th instead of the 26, and await your Lordship's coming with great pleasure.

2ndly Our Capital has not changed since I last gave your Lord^p the list. The Sisters who have entered since have only had pensions, or value of pensions. And we do not wish henceforth to meddle with the Capital of those who enter, at least till the probationary years are completed. Your Lordship will remember that you only allow the present Sisters to make their Vows for a year. Mr Buckle wishes his Cousin Miss McCabe to pay a dowry & to make the remainder (if there is any) over to her brother – but she must keep her own though she cannot appropriate it personally of course.

Our books shall be ready for your Lordship's inspection on the 28th. And we shall be happy to answer any questions concerning anything your Lordship wishes.

I remain my Lord

Your faithful Servant in J.C.

Cornelia Connelly.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

Mayfield

Trinity Sunday

1868 [June 7th]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We sent the telegram to Mr Stoner, then went to Putney, where we found Mrs Bellasis & Cecie only, the Serg^t having gone to Parliament S^t , we waited till the 3³¹ train in hopes of having an answer from Mr Stoner – Finding none came it seemed better not to risk losing both the Serg^t & M^r Stonor so we made sure of the former by going direct to 44 Parliament S^t – There we shewed the Contract M^r Hodgson's letters & Mr Pugins &c The result was that the S^{gt} recommended our posting your Lordship's letter to M^r Hodgson & he thinks we are answerable for Mr Pugin's orders-

The question now seems to be what those orders were that were contrary to the drawings & Specifications, and not what the value rec^d may be or may not be.

Probably Mr Hodgson may not be at home as he was ~~from~~ [sic] on business in the North or Midland Counties hoping to have some Catholic building that was offered.

I intended yesterday to thank your Lordship for your kindness to us on your last visit most particularly, w^h we all did from our inmost hearts, & now we have double thanks for your kind patience with us yesterday terminated by our walking off

with your Lordship's Bradshaw! I do hope it reached its own home on yr table last evening?- We only discovered our distraction on opening our bag & finding ours there & your Lordships in our hands.

We stop here till the Eve of Corpus Christi.

Begging your blessing & prayers, I remain

my dear Lord yr faithful Serv^t in J.C.

C. C.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

Mayfield

June 9th 1868

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I have just discovered that Mr Hodgson's third letter had slipped aside in its envelope, and also escaped my memory – You will see that he speaks of the valuation of extras by a third party which gives a clearer light as to what he requires than the two former letters – I therefore forward it immediately together with the list of the extras accepted by us.

I have asked Mr Stonor to raise another £1000 to cover the £700.10 together with the heating & Altar but if Mr Hodgson puts on other claims it will not be enough.

I remain

My d^r Lord

Yr faithful Ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

Pray do not trouble to answer till your Lordship hears from M^r Hodgson.

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pg 080

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME

[Copied from Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

June 16th /68

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Thanks for the enclosed letters. I send your Lordship one from Pugin with a copy of my answer sent by todays post.

“ The immediately [sic] difficulty – “ of Mr Hodgson is a mistake (!) as we have never refused to pay for the extras ordered by us, and 2^{ndly} we have p^d £200 beyond the 80 pr:ct: due on the Contract.

I am quite grieved that your Lordship should have all this trouble, but the beauty of the building is some consolation.

I am my dear Lord

Your faithful Serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly

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pg 081

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

June 22nd 1868

+

JMJ

My dear Lord, [Bishop Grant]

M^r Stonor will raise the money for us, & in the meanwhile we shall borrow what we require from the Bank and pay back as soon as we receive the amt from him.

2.^{ndly} The sum remaining on the Contract is £365 – due one month after the work is finished – but if the delay is owing to M^r Pugins extras we are willing to pay the £365 now, adding to this sum such other items as are finished as the Porch, Organ Gallery &c bringing the a^{mt} to £500 in all. The Sanctuary tiles are not even begun. If there are other items we ought to know what they are before we can pay them or engage to do so.

If your Lordship approve[s] of this perhaps you will tell Mr Pugin to give Hodgson the certificate for £500, and require a note of any other items.

Could we not secure ourselves in some legal form to prevent any further alterations or Extras?

So far I have given your Lordship the result of our consultation on the subject, and if there is any thing more that you prefer pray act as yr Lordship thinks best and we shall hold ourselves ready.

I remain

my d^r Lord

yr faithful ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 082

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t L. on Sea.

June 23rd [1868]

+

J M J

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I enclose the list of Capital invested w^h I have not had time to do until this day. We must always hold ourselves bound to return capital rec^d should any one be unfortunate enough to leave us.

I wrote to your Lordship yesterday regarding the Church.

Begging a blessing I remain

Ever yr Lordships faithl Serv^t

in JC.

C.C.

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pg 083

(Enclosed in letter to Bp Grant 23rd June 1868)

Property in Trust for Com^{ty}

The Convent S^t Leonards

Mayfield, Old Palace

Buildings & Farm –

119 acres

Layton Hill, Blackpool

15 acres.

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pg 084

(Enclosed in a letter to Bp Grant 23rd June 1868)

S.H.C.Jesus S^t Leonards on Sea 1868

Capital paid and invested

S^t Leonards Presbytery All Souls

£1000

Sch^l & Dormitory

500

Sch^l Hall & Dor^{ty}

1200

(Miss Buckle & Miss Laprimaudaye)

Russian Bonds (in the Bank)

1000

Miss F.I. Bridges & A Laprimaudaye

Mayfield Building's & Farm.

(F.I. Bridges, Laprimaudaye & others)

2000

Layton Hill Blackpool at 4 pr ct &

Deed in the names of

(Annie Day

(Annie Croft

(Annie Laprimaudaye

(Annie Wynne

1000

The Duchesses [sic] Rooms & Kitchen

300

Purchase of Church Lot £500)

& of this sum put upon Church)

269. 19. 7

Furniture ab^t more or less -

3600 “ “

Music Rooms

250 “ “

£ 11, 119.19.7

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

June 28th /68

+

JMJ.

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

As we are looking forward to your Lordship's visit on the 28th of next month I must not delay offering the following Novices for Vows who have been accepted by the Community.

They are,

S ^r M Agnese)	Age	Clothed
M I. Duckett)	21	July 2 nd 1866
S ^r Mary Stanislas)	Age	Clothed
Mary Cooper)	27	July 2 nd /66

Lay Sister

S ^r Scholastic)	Age	Clothed
M A Kelly)	24	Feb 2 nd /65

also for Clothing

Miss Denman Press Age 23.

The latter is a convert and has been with us for about a year She was abandoned by her adopted parents when she became a Catholic and has no dower – The probable value of services would be £40 pr: an:

Would it be convenient to your Lordship to have the ceremony on the 28th ? If you could come down on the 27th

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pg 086

it w^{ld} be a great pleasure to us all.

I am ever yr Lordship's

faithful Serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

July 1st 1868

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

A copy of M^r Hodgson's letter of June 27 together with the copy of your Lordships letter of June 24th are in the envelope to go by this post to M^r Pugin.

M^r Hodgson's sum of £850 not including the extras agreed upon seems to be absurd in proportion to the Contract.

2.^{ndly} The debt upon the Church will not affect the support of Novices – if we had Sisters to spare at this moment we should only be too happy to send a fresh supply to the other Convents in need of help. And a dozen with good vocations would be a boon to us.

Many thanks for your Lordships kind advice regarding a local Superior here – I have much desired it since long before our visit to America. – Also, we can try to arrange to have the Novices at Mayfield quite apart from the School, and each Novice must have her pension either paid by her relatives or by the other Communities share.

I really have to smile at your Lordships encouraging words when I look at my own unworthiness!

Many thanks for the letter to Rev^d M^r Butler – What am I to say to Miss Denman Press?

Ever my dear Lord yr faithful

Ser^{vt} in JC

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 088

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from Photostat of Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

July 15th /68

S^t Swithen

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Miss Doyle will have yr Lordship's letter I trust by this post unaltered! The Archaeological people have already made two or three visits & reports on the place since we have been there, and they seem only to want a summer excursion & something to do –

S^t Leonards C^h

M^r Hodgson has sent me no items yet – I had his receipt for the £500 on the Contract & organ gallery &c and sent it direct to M^r Stonor. I am afraid M^r S. is out of town as he has not acknowledged the receipt.

Farmer's men came this morning to put up the Altar & to lay the tiles. The late storms have done some small damage at the Orphanage, Bletchingley, and frightened the Sisters and the children – Some parts of the ceilings came down & the scaffolding in the yard & stone mason's shed were struck down, and the Cloisters were flooded – and they thought they were all killed ! We also had to pray hard, for the thunder rolled over our roof like cannon balls, but the Church and pretty Bell-Cott stand unhurt.

As your Lordship has not answered regarding “ those out of the Church” we shall conclude that our presumptive leave was right. I am ever

Yr Lordships faithful S^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t L. on Sea.

July 20th /68

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

The occasion soon occurred for me to let the Duchess know, without alluding to any one, that Col : Towneley would raise the money required without Mortgaging any property! She is more peculiar than ever and is more easily annoyed than she was a few years ago, & very decidedly bent on having ~~her~~ [sic] some Puseyite Converts for Sisters of Charity!

Mr Hodgson

I have heard nothing from him of items! - & no men are at work but M^r Farmers, (who are putting up the Altar) and the men employed by us at the heating apparatus. I had hoped it would be ready for the first Mass on the 28th – Alas there is very little prospect of such good news.

We are all very busy in looking forward to the prizes 28th.

M^r Donnelly returns this week and we hope to begin our retreat with F^r Harper the first week in August. After this to remove the Novices to Mayfield & to get everything in order for the Winter. And to become a Novice myself as far as Our Lord wills!

We had bad news from America yesterday – One of our

dear Sisters who went out as a Postulant ab^t four years ago Harriet Dring, S^r Xavier, took Typhoid fever on the 30th of June and died on the 6th of July. R.I.P. She made her vows while we were in America and was a most devoted religious – Will your Lordship kindly remember her in the Holy Sacrifice?

Begging a blessing I remain

Ever my dear Lord

Yr faithful Ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

July 25th /68

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We are in the greatest distress at the thought of your illness – Oh! Do get well quickly and pray let us know that you are better, this hot weather make[s] us very anxious – and then the possibility of not seeing your Lordship on the 28th is most afflicting – The poor children! Still we shall keep up our hopes the more remembering that a railway journey is often a cure for Rheumatic Gout, at least for the time, & change of air always recommended.

Our children begin a Novena three times daily 'till your Lordship is better & they will invoke the black Lady in the garden who always does wonders for them – so we shall hope and hope on – One of the converts Miss Thompson (formerly a Clever Nun !) hoped your Lordship w^{ld} confirm her at the same time – A great deal hangs upon your speedy recovery my dear Lord – our blessed Mother must hear us!

Last week brought us sad tidings of the death of our d^r Sister Xavier, Harriet Dring, who went out to America as a Postulant & made her vows last ~~December~~ [sic] Novem when we were there. R.I.P. Will your Lordship commend her precious soul to our d^r Lord! & to His Imm: Mother? I have written to her poor Mother. She died on the 6th of July after a typhoid fever of seven days duration

She was an innocent & most devoted child, & a faithful religious during her short term.

May the sweet Mother of God make you quite well & bring you to us on Tuesday. Ever my d^r Lord

yr faithful Ser^{vt} in JC.

C. C.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Aug: 6th /68

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We are anxious to know how you are & can only hope this weather has not retarded your convalescence – The Prizes went off as well as possible in your Lordship's absence. The poor children prayed to the last moment & we had invited ten Priests to meet your Lordship, though some anticipated our disappointment & did not make their appearance.

Our retreat with F^r Harper began last Sunday, and we are now just in the middle of it with great thankfulness to have been so much favoured in having so clear & excellent a preacher – with wise direction.

We shall hope to see your Lordship on the 30th & then propose arrangements regarding the local Superior & the Noviciate.

Begging your Lordship's blessing & prayers for our retreat I remain

My d^r Lord

Yr faithful Ser^{vt} in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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pg 094

SH.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME.

[Copied from Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Aug 7th [1868]

Confidential & under secrecy

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I did not mean to ask for anything beyond the daily intercourse out of the Chapel. It would be a great pity to include other times such as Prizes, Christmas amusements & so on. Above all to touch upon any time that your Lordship may be here! The Instructions are given in the Chapel except those in the poor School.

Our retreat is quite beautiful – we have not had such a treat for a long time.

Begging your Lordship blessing I remain

Ever your faithful servant

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

[Bishop Grant's answer to the above]

[Unless you make a regulation that the Children are not to stop to speak to him, you must either speak to him or let me speak to him plainly, as I cannot say “ Avoid the Children when you meet them “ unless I explain my order & justify it. At the reopening of the Schools make such rules as will meet the case. + T.G.]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Sep 12th 1868.

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

When your Lordship's kind letter reached me yesterday I was upon the point of writing to ask you to name a day for the opening of the Convent Church –

Thanks for all you name regarding the various arrangements. I am in fact doing what you wish regarding the Local Superior in a quiet way - Some may not be quite satisfied with any proposed changes – But all shall go on as usual without excitement or annoyance.

1st Does your Lordship think it possible to have the opening of the Church on the feast of S^t Michael – next Tuesday fortnight? One Carpenter is still at work at the inner doors and the tiles are not quite finished at one side of the Altar – But there is no doubt that we could have the opening on the feast of S^t Michael if this day will suit your Lordship – Supposing by this time that your precious health may be equal to the journey . I was so much grieved to hear of this tedious attack! and we hope it is now over and that your Lordship may be ready for the cold weather of the coming winter - Oh! My Lord I hope you ask our Lord to spare you to us many years yet to come, for it will be in vain that we ask if you pray for the contrary!

2nd If the time for re-arranging the points your Lordship mentions regarding the Rule be desirable before the Council in Rome would it be possible to discuss the matter with Canon Morris, who I presume has finished his noviciate? and then have a meeting of the Superiors of the other Houses in England to bring us to some practical conclusions.

3rdly The Bishop of Philadelphia has received our Sisters

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as our Rule now stands, and I am quite sure that our Sisters all see that the essential point with us all is to be firmly united under one head without any reference to me personally or to any particular Diocese, though our interests & hearts are first in that of your Lordship, but I quite understand the principle to w^h your Lordship's suggestion tends.

“ Amongst points to be explained “

a) Will your Lordship say what you w^{ld} wish regarding “ the mode of holding property “ – Each House to bear its own expenses of course ,and the Capital to be at the disposal of the individual, who brings it in , for her life (?) or for the first ten years (?) If vows may be released of course the Capital also must go, I presume so in justice – otherwise how could the S^r S^r be returned to their families on a reduced fortune. The Vows must be conditional, unless solemn at the end of ten years, w^h we hear the Holy Father never intends at allow to any active orders of women, if to those who are cloistered!

b) There will not be the smallest difficulty ab^t manifestation of Conscience – if only “ external faults” are really made known “ & progress in perfection “ we shall not fail in being safe.

c) Rome approves of the Conditional vows for life, if your Lordship will refer to the notes, as you will see.

d) For eighteen years the speaking of what is said in Confession has been forbidden amongst us, not under pain of sin certainly, but the tongue is an unruly member – your Lordship will laugh

4. I have not said anything to M^r Donnelly ab^t the children but I will if it would not offend.

This is a long & tiresome letter for your Lordship and now I must only thank you very much for your patience, and

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for your interest in Cecie Bellasis and for all your kind explanations to the Serg^t upon which he no doubt acted when he wrote to me ab^t Cecie – She has not yet written to me.

One more favour I have to ask, and this is to beg of your Lordship to ask for F^r Clare to give our childrens retreat the last week in October. We were all so much helped by F^r Harpers retreat that we cannot be grateful enough & besides this his week at Mayfield was of immense good.

Mth Angelica is gradually recovering & we hope she may be able to be with us here for change of air next week.

Again thanking you my d^r Lord

I am ever your faithful

serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Sep 30th 1868.

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

M^r Donnelly has just sent me your letter to M^r Foy together with the note to me regarding the Convent Church being registered . I do not know whether I ever mentioned to your Lordship that M^r Jones told me some time before his death that it could never be registered as it w^{ld} cease to be private & Conventual property if this were done.

I presume that Convent Churches would not come under the penalties of the law, but no doubt your Lordship is sure to know.

I was on the point of writing to ask for the opening of the Church on the 13th, S^t Edwards Feast, as your Lordship named any day between the 6th & the 14th exclusive of Sundays – In the letter to M^r Foy you name 27, 28, 29. – Do get well quickly!

M^r Pugin was here today with M^r Hodgson- The tiles of the Sanctuary have to be taken up, but this need not prevent the opening as they must remain as they are 'till others are made – which will take a month or more and they may be done at any time.

I remain my dear Lord

yr faithful servant in JC

Cornelia Connelly

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from photostat]

The Convent

S^t L. on Sea.

Tuesday.

[in Bishop Grant's hand :Oct 6. 1868

Recd Oct 8.]

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JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

F^r Clare came down last even^d – quite unexpectedly, as you will remember your Lordships letter named the last week in October ! However it happens to be either now or not at all! So we began last even^g – Poor Cicie, and from ten to twenty others , will miss it as they have not all returned! – and besides this more than ten of our old pupils had looked forward to coming to us this Autumn & will be sadly disappointed and none the better for the loss!

Will your Lordship kindly send F^r Clare faculties for acting as Extraordinary here? There will be no time for Mayfield but they are not in want as F^r Harper stopped till the last day of August.

I wrote to Mr Foy with your Lordship's message. We shall all be ready for the 19th & 20th and trust your health may be much improved and the weakness quite gone. We shall all beg of our d^r & Immaculate Mother to make your Lordship quite well & strong.

I remain

My d^r Lord yr faithful Ser^{vt}

In J.C.

Cornelia Connelly

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[copied from photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Oct 9th /68

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

It is a great comfort to know you are able to return to S^t George's, but do take care not to over-fatigue yourself.

The children's retreat is going on beautifully which makes us the more regret the absence of others- poor Cicie is quite in grief over her loss. Emily Barker, whose father of Manchester ought to be a Catholic & is not, made her abjuration & was baptised this morning. She has hung back a whole year, going on still with daily instruction & at Mass every morning!

I send the relics of S^t Theophila. We have none of S^t Walburga for which I am very sorry. The size of your Lordships relic box is larger than the opening cut in the marble but we can easily have it chiselled out.

Many thanks for the faculties for Extraordinary. The retreat ends tomorrow morning.

I remain ever

My dear Lord

Yr faithful Ser^{vt}

in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

M^r Walmesley of Westwood House Wigan, is dying – His youngest daughter was sent for yesterday.

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME

[opied from Original]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Oct 11th /68

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

If you have no objection we should rather have the Title to be “ The Church of the Holy Child Jesus “- and S^t Michael the Patron. If so shall we leave a vacant line on the parchment for your Lordship to enter the Title & Patron or guardian angel? Or if yr Ldp would write it we can print & illuminate the parchment.

Will your Lordship let me know whether there w^{ld} be any objection to our inviting Col: Towneley, Mr Stonor & other friends to the opening? It has been suggested that Mr. Foy may make a difficulty - & if so it would create some unpleasantness on the day itself w^h w^{ld} a pity.

I hope your Lordship is really better, and

I am ever faithfully

Yr Lordships serv^t

in JC

Cornelia Connelly

[Bishop Grant's answer to C.C.'s letter of Oct 11th 1868, written on the letter:]

Of course, the Mass will be a Low Mass but have singing during & before it. in honorem Adorandi et Sanctissimi Pueri Jesu sub invocatione S. Michaelis Archangeli Principis Militiae Coelestis. “ With the parchment will you send me two

tiny silk Envelopes not as large as a sixpenny piece with S. Theophila on one & S. Urbica on the other. And send me about 10 or 12

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inches of white or red ribbon to go round the box.

(Opening Blessing)?

+ T Grant

[In Father Foy's hand:-]

Copy

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Oct 11th . 1868.

My dear Lord,

If you have no objection we should rather have the title to be the Church of the Holy Child Jesus &c.

Will your Lordship let me know whether there would be any objection to our inviting Col Towneley, Mr Stonor, and other friends to the opening. It has been suggested that Mr Foy ~~make~~ may make a difficulty, and if so it would create some unpleasantness on the day itself which would be a pity.

I hope your Lordship is really better, and I am

ever faithfully your Lordships servant

in Jesus Christ

Cornelia Connelly.

Postulants to receive the Habit

	<u>Local Votes</u>		<u>Votes of Council</u>	
Miss Evelina French	For. /////	Against -	For ///	Against –
Miss Mary Carter	id /////	id -	id ///	id -

Postulant

Miss Alice Toogood

Convent

S^t Leonard's on Sea.

June 1st 1876

[Bishop Danell's hand:-]

Approved for examination by Rev J Warner

Postulants to receive the Habit

	<u>Local Votes</u>	<u>Votes of Council</u>
Miss Evelina French	For #### Against -	For /// Against -
Miss Mary Carter	id ### id -	id /// id -

Two of the Council are in America

The Convent

[Bishop Danell's hand: -]

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Deputed Father Warner to examine

June 7th 1876

above. & Father Corney to perform

ceremony on 21 of June

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from Photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

June 30th 1873.

S^r Marie Gabrielle

Helene Milanesi

Lay Sisters

Sister Mary Winefrid

Sarah Bilsborough

Sister Frances

[Father Anthony's hand :-]

Margaret O'Brien –

It is very satisfactory

B. Anthony

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t L on Sea.

Nov 8th 1868

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

I thought of course that you knew Col : Towneley had sent me, through M^r Stonor, £1000 for our Cells & the Extras on the Church – He sold the Lincoln's Inn property to raise this sum and it has relieved us from all anxiety on the subject. The Cells are to be begun immediately by M^r Hughes who has estimated the work at £685 – Hodgson demanded £1000 for the same work.

Thanks to the form of Contract which your Lordship sent to me through M^r Arnold for our safety with M^r Hodgson He is quite aware that the law w^{ld} do nothing for him, but he will doubtless get all he can out of us on the remaining Extras.

I presume your Lordship has no objections to our carrying out the cells as it was proposed with the Church, but pray let me know if I am mistaken.

I also forgot when your Lordship was here to speak of the Local Sup: Shall I consider Mth Theresa as such and announce it to the Community? She was in charge during our journey to America and has pretty much had the same as Assistant.

Many thanks my dr Lord for your kind remarks regarding a

certain individual giving medical advice here – I have put an end to it happily without giving any offence. He has taken out Mth Angelica to drive several times to give her change of air, but there is an end of that also today, as it is better to have a Cabman and throw away a few shillings if necessary for health. Your Lordship very kindly asked if any one was ill, and I quite forgot Mth Angelica (as she was out of the Doctors hands I suppose) who is very slow in regaining her strength.

I hope my heart may be as a Ciboire de Cire always to receive God's most Holy Will & designs.

Yr faithful Servant in J.C.

C. C.

[9th Nov. 1868]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

The enclosed is the Rosary Collection from the Convent & the Children, with many thanks

I shall not touch the Dowers of the Sisters for any of the buildings &c –

Pugin thought he had made M^r Hodgson quite reasonable & that he had given up all demands beyond the Extras agreed upon – but I had a letter this morning demanding by return of post “ four or five hundred pounds “ ! - w^h by return I refused, requesting M^r Hodgson to send me the bill for the extras agreed upon and those completed should be paid immediately.

I sent Hodgsons letter to M^r Pugin I think M^r Hodgson presumes on your Lordship's favour – and protection, but we cannot be answerable for his faults or losses – He talks as if he built the whole church, foundations and all, forgetting that some six thousand pounds had been spent on it before he touched it.

I remain

My dear Lord

Yr faithful & grateful

Serv^t in JC

Cornelia Connelly

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea

Nov 9th 1868.

Dec 3. [1868]

P.S. We are praying very hard that our Im: Mother may preserve and approve our Institute & Rule, and I ask this daily in the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary. She will do for us what we can never do for ourselves.

The only means of getting the local Superior fully into her office here will be for me to leave the place for a time at least in the Spring.

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SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

[Copied from a photostat]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Dec 15th

1868

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

Will it be convenient for you to name a day for the profession of

Miss Catherine Segrave

Clothed Sep 2nd 1866

also

Catherine Toomey

Lay Sister, clothed Aug 21 1865

and for the clothing of the following Postulants

Miss Catherine Ainsworth

Miss Florence Colegrave

Miss Cecilia Bellasis

Miss Matilda Tompson

They have all been accepted by the Community and are sufficiently provided for by an annual pension. Miss Tompson rec^d your Lordships answer to her letter, for w^h she is very grateful – Her Mother left here in very happy dispositions & quite ready to get rid of her Presbyterian prejudices.

We all hope our d^r Immaculate Mother will restore your precious health & give your Lordship a long life, and a less

suffering one than it has been.

As F^r Eccles could not send a Father for the three days I wrote to ask for F^r Clare as Extraordinary just before the Epiphany.

Begging a blessing

I am ever My d^r Lord

Yr faithful & gtful

Serv^t in JC.

Cornelia Connelly.

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Dec 17th /68

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

The 12th will do perfectly and we must hope & pray that your Lordship may have renewed health for Christmas & New Year. There are such bemoanings over the loss of Midnight Mass, & pleadings to petition the Holy Father in ~~our~~ [sic] behalf of our special devotion to the Holy Child! Would it be possible to obtain it for us if your Lordship asked it? Perhaps you have not yet asked for the Altar to be privileged and if so it would be a great favour to get the Midnight Mass in perpetuo, & for our d^r children – and the Holy Father would not refuse your Lordship for the love of the Holy Child at this fervent Season. Will you ask my Lord? - Have patience with me if I say I am very anxious ab^t your health , but I am, & beg of our d^r Mother to preserve you, & to make you soon well & strong again for all the precious work of your d^r flock – ourselves of course primarily in view.

I hope Mrs Thompson drank in something of the true faith in her visit to yr Lordship.

Ever my d^r Lord your faithful

& grateful s^{vt} in JC

C.C.

The Convent

S^t L. on Sea.

Dec 18th [1868]

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

We think there is every reason to believe that Miss Tompson will persevere. She is 33 years of age & ought to know her own mind, but she will write to your Lordship herself. Many thanks for what you said to Miss Tompson. .Yes, my Lord, if you say the Riule "must" be approved it will – We are quite ready to be guided by your Lordship's decision.

I think my Lord that you have the " Method of Election" in the manuscript but if you wish S^r Veronica shall put it into Italian – and send it to you immediately with the Italian copy, or I can send this to your Lordship now.

We all have every grateful confidence in your advice & in the conscientious course we know you will pursue in our regard – of course we shall hope & pray and do as you tell us. But we hope all through your Lordship. What could I possibly do in such a case save mischief & giving trouble!

I am my d^r Lord

yr faithful ser^{vt} in JC.

C [ornelia] C [onnelly]

The Convent

S^t Leonards on Sea.

Dec 28th /68

+

JMJ

My dear Lord [Bishop Grant]

No – We are praying that you may be restored to health for good & not only till the 12th Of course being “ for good” is just as selfish to a greater extent. We should not be human if it were not so ! The wit of the proposition make us hope you are not in pain my Lord – If the journey w^{ld} be in the smallest degree harmful I hope my Lord that you will delegate M^r Donnelly to perform the Ceremony & to receive the Vows.

Miss Tompson has done nothing but fret over your Lordships doubt as to her Clothing. Her mother sends her veiling &c for the Clothing and it is much better to let matters go on without trying to bring a Protestant Mother to consent to her entering religion, w^h she would conscientiously - & thro' human respect oppose. The mere fact of her being 33 years of age is sufficient to act upon & if your Lordship were here you would not hesitate a moment in receiving her – Therefore pray consider it as settled. I have promised to write to your Lordship to this effect.

Do take care of yourself this windy weather – Our children are in high glee today being their especial Feast & Baby draped as a Blue Nun, but the weather, hail & storm, keeps

them indoors.

I am My d^r Lord

Yr faithful Ser^{vt} in JC.

C. C.

Dunstan' Comments

Volume X1V

- Pg 007 I have left the first word of the letter as "My" ; it may be a typist error as there is no 'sic'.
- pg 050 2nd par, last line: Could be Dr, Fr, or Br, and Reed, Deed , or Read; also, the first sister in the list could be Furey or Purey
- Pg 106 Surname of first sister could be Milanesi/ Bilanesi/ Silanesi